Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A targeting device suitable for mounting an optical scanner thereon for scanning a surface of an object, comprising:

a frame;

a linkage slidably mounted on the frame;

an actuator arm secured to the linkage, which actuator arm has ~~an~~ a curved outer surface configured to slidingly engage the surface of the object to be scanned and move in tandem with the linkage along the frame when the object to be scanned is inserted between the actuator arm and a support surface below the actuator arm; and

a holder mounted on the linkage configured to mount the optical scanner thereon at a predetermined scanning distance from the object to be scanned engaged by the actuator arm.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the optical scanner is an optical character reader.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the object is a mail piece, and the holder is mounted at a position appropriate for recording region of interest address information from the mail piece.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a base disposable horizontally on which the frame is rigidly mounted in an upright position, with a distal end of the actuator arm in engagement with the base, an upper surface of the base comprising the support surface.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, further comprising means for biasing the linkage, holder and actuator arm to a position at which a distal end of the actuator arm engages the support surface.

6. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the actuator arm comprises a pair of curved rails that slidingly engages the surface of the mail piece to be scanned on opposite sides of the region of interest.

7. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein the actuator arm comprises a curved plate that slidingly engages the surface of the mail piece to be scanned, the curved plate including a centrally located hole configured to expose the region of interest for scanning.

8-13. (canceled)

14. (New) A targeting device suitable for mounting an optical scanner thereon for scanning a surface of an object, comprising:

a frame including a base and an upright post extending from the base;

a linkage slidably mounted on the post;

an actuator arm secured to and extending from the linkage, which actuator arm has a curved undersurface configured to slidingly engage the surface of the object to be scanned and move in tandem with the linkage along the post when the object to be scanned is inserted between the actuator arm and a support undersurface below the actuator arm; and

a holder supported by the actuator arm and configured to mount the optical scanner thereon at a predetermined scanning distance from the object to be scanned.

15. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the holder is mounted on the linkage for movement therewith.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the curved undersurface has an opening therein through which an optical scanner mounted on the holder can view an upper surface of the object.

17. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the support surface is an upper surface of the base at a location spaced from the post.

18. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein curved undersurface of the actuator arm comprises a pair of curved rails that slidingly engage the surface of the object to be scanned on opposite sides of a region of interest.

19. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the object is a flat mail piece, and the curved undersurface is configured for engaging an outer surface of the mail piece.

20. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the actuator arm comprises a curved plate that slidingly engages the surface of the mail piece to be scanned, the curved plate including a centrally located hole configured to expose the region of interest for scanning.

21. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the optical scanner is an optical character reader mounted on the holder.

22. (New) A method of reading indicia from a flat outer surface of a object with a scanner, comprising:

positioning the object beneath a targeting device suitable mounting an optical scanner thereon, which device includes a frame including a base and an upright post extending from the base, a linkage slidably mounted on the post, an actuator arm secured to and extending from the linkage, which actuator arm has a curved undersurface which lidingly engages the surface of the object to be scanned and moves in tandem with the linkage along the post when the object to be scanned is inserted between the actuator arm and a support surface below the actuator arm, and a holder configured to mount the optical scanner thereon at a predetermined scanning distance from the object to be scanned;

sliding the object between the support surface and the curved undersurface to a position readable by the optical scanner, causing the actuator arm and linkage to rise on the post; and

activating the scanner to capture an image of the surface of the object.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the object comprises a flat mail piece.